

Appln. No. 10/726,289  
Amendment dated November 22, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

### **REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2005, claims 10, 14, 19-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dam et al U.S. Patent No. 5,757,876. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 11-13, 15, 16 and 24-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Dam '876 patent in further view of the German Patent No. DE 102 13 293-A1.

Claims 3, 8, 17, 18 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant hereby acknowledges and appreciates such finding by the Examiner.

In response to the Office Action, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 3 such that claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1 and are thus are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 8 such that claim 7 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 9 depends from amended claim 7 and is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 17. Based upon this amendment, claim 10 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 11-16, 18 and 22 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 10 and are also believed to be in condition for allowance based upon the allowability of claim 10.

### **Conclusion**

Based upon the above amendments, claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-16, 18 and 22 remain in the application. Independent claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended to each include the subject matter of one of the dependent claims deemed allowable by the Examiner. The

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remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim and are thus also believed to be in condition for allowance. The remaining claims have been cancelled from prosecution.

Based upon the present amendments, all of the claims in the application are believed to be allowable and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Kuborn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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